

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
PENNSYLVANIA
DIVERSITY
NETWORK

VALLEY GAY PRESS

GLBT INFORMATION
SINCE
1998

THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 11 NO. 8

OCTOBER 2008

HOW WE FOILED THE PROTESTERS
READ ABOUT IT ON PAGE 11

THE BIG VOICE: GOD or MERMAN?

(a musical comedy in two lives)



Rainbow Players
Theater Co.
AT MCCLV

930 North 4th Street, Allentown

NOVEMBER 14TH - 8 PM

NOVEMBER 15TH - 2 PM

(50% of matinee proceeds to
benefit F.A.C.T.)

NOVEMBER 15TH - 7 PM

Suggested Donation:

\$15 (At The Door)

PDN'S YARD SALE AT DIAMONZ HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL SPRING



RAINBOW ROSE COMMUNITY HOSTS PA DIVERSITY NETWORK PHOTO PROJECT 300 SAME-SEX COUPLES: FACING INEQUALITY IN LANCASTER FOR OCTOBER

The PDN Photo Project will be on display in Lancaster at the Art in the Alley Gallery, 323 N. Queen St. in October. Opening reception: October 3, 6pm. Photos of Lancaster area couples will be taken for the Project. On October 17, a special reception for the new Lancaster photos will also include a silent auction fundraiser for Rainbow Rose Community and PA Diversity Network and a book reading of Liz Bradbury's lesbian mystery/romance novel Angel Food and Devil Dogs - A Maggie Gale Mystery. For information contact event organizer Barry Russell of Rainbow Rose Community at info@rainbowrosecommunity 717-380-1071 or call PDN - 610-432-5449, or check the PADiversityweb site.

WOMEN JOIN THE PDN 5K CLASSIC WALK (OR RUN) TEAM TO FIGHT BREAST CANCER,

OCTOBER 18
SIGN UP THRU
THE PDN WEB SITE
PADIVERSITY.ORG
READ MORE ON
PAGE 3



LEHIGH VALLEY HOSPITAL GRANTS DOMESTIC PARTNER BENEFITS

Finally, after years of requests by employees, the Lehigh Valley's largest employer has announced its employee benefits handbook that LVH will grant domestic partner benefits to the same-sex partners of employees. Read more about it in the Nov. VGP.

ADRIAN SHANKER, LINDA ANTHONY & OTHERS TO BE HONORED WITH ALLENTOWN HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD

The Allentown Human Relations Commission will honor GLBT community activist Adrian Shanker, community ally Linda Anthony, and other individuals, and organizations at the AHRC banquet on Oct. 14.

Read more on page 7.



THOUSANDS ATTENDED LV PRIDE IN THE PARK IN AUGUST
SEE HUNDREDS OF PHOTOS AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

RALLY AGAINST HATE

COMMUNITY WIDE RALLY AGAINST HATE
CRIMES ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
MURDER OF MATTHEW SHEPARD. SUNDAY,
OCT 12TH, 7PM - 9PM AT MUHLENBERG
COLLEGE, EGNER MEMORIAL CHAPEL,
Chew & 23rd Allentown. With special guests: Dr. Jim Peck and
Rev. Ann Kitch, cousins of Matthew Shepard. Musical
performances by The Jamani Drummers, The Lehigh Valley
Gay Men's Chorus, The Girls Next Door, and Ryan Acquatta.
\$5.00 suggested donation Funds go to the Matthew Shepard
foundation To support their Erasing Hate initiative.

BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 10.

What's That About?



Readers write or email "What's That About" editor Liz Bradbury with questions about GLBT issues.



Dear WTA Readers ask: Who was that guy you were arguing with in the PDN booth at Pride? Where does the Republican Party stand on GLBT issues? Please comment on Del Martin.

Dear Readers: We Owe Part Of Every Advancement To Del Martin -- On August 17, 2008, Lesbian activist Del Martin died at USCF Hospice in San Francisco.

Del Martin and her partner Phyllis Lyon had been together since 1952. In 1955 they began the first lesbian organization in the United States. In 2004, they were the first same-sex couple to be married in San Francisco, only to have their marriage rights rescinded by California courts 6 months later. On June 5th, 2008, Martin and Lyon were the first same-sex couple to be legally wed in California after the CA supreme court decision granted marriage equality to families like ours. (Read more about Del Martin's vital life on page 5)

At the Lehigh Valley Pride in the Park festival in August, a very young man from a Democratic Campaign booth came into the PA Diversity Network booth and tried to tell both me and Trish that the gay community should be content to accept "incremental" progress for the civil rights of our community, he also told me that he did not "believe you can legislate against homophobia." Well, he was wrong on both counts...

1. We are not content with incremental progress with our civil rights - especially since we haven't seen much in the last 16 years federally or in the State of PA. In fact, all we have seen in PA the last 6 years is the loss of the Hate Crimes Law. And while it's nice to beat hateful legislation, like Constitutional Amendments, beating laws against us isn't really progress.

And 2. Yes, you can legislate against homophobia. Passing laws that make discrimination illegal changes people's minds in the long run. Case in point: The Integration of the armed services by President Harry Truman in 1948 -- he did it, and now you would be hard pressed to find someone who would not say that soldiers should serve together regardless of race. If the military had not been forcefully integrated by Truman's presidential order, the attitudes of society would have been far less quick in changing.

When asked about losing her marriage rights in 2004 Phyllis Lyon said: "Del is 83 years old and I am 79. After being together for more than 50 years, it is a terrible blow to have the rights and protections of marriage taken away from us. At our age, we do not have the luxury of time."

Thank goodness that they were able to live together for four more years, so they could see their marriage equality finally and legally in place (if perhaps, only for a few more months, but at least forever for them.) These equal marriage rights were no thanks to people any where in this country who say they believe our community should be content with less than full marriage equality. They were no thanks to people who believe we should be content to wait because others in this Country are not ready for our committed couples to be married. No person of any minority should be expected to be content with anything less than fully equal civil rights -- separate but equal has already been proven impossible! It's not just a word - it is legal equality.

(By the way McCain's Republican Party platform calls for not only a Constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage, but efforts to repeal any civil union protections already granted in states that have passed them. Obama's Democratic platform calls for equal protections for all families. - So don't forget to vote in November - do it for Del).

READ MORE ABOUT DEL MARTIN AT

2

"A LITTLE BIT OF HEALING"

by Phil Healing
"GAY MARRIAGE - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?"

GAY MARRIAGE, IMMIGRATION EQUALITY, AND CANADA

My husband and I are being forced out of our home - and the Country - for political reasons. I hate the incessant explanation of the legalities, to my friends and family. I know mostly that people are just trying to be helpful, but it's amazing that people we consider well informed are not aware of the ramifications of the marriage situation. Almost to a person, they say "What about Massachusetts or California?" Until states have the right to issue green cards, this is not an option. Only the feds can issue those documents. So no, I cannot go to MA or CA and get married and no, that won't make it all better. No, I can't get another H1-B work visa after the 6 year period is up. No, I just can't go get a green card. No, I can't get citizenship. Citizenship? With McCain and Co. on the scene, that's the last thing I would want.

What I really want is to put a "Haven't You Learned Yet?" bumper sticker on all those cars, right next to the McCain sticker that has been stuck on top of the Bush sticker.

We are leaving the country because we have to. I'm not legal here after October, so if you know someone who wants to rent a huge Victorian house, let me know. We're off to Montreal, where gay marriage is legal. Marriage, not a few nods in an attempt to quell the "We're gay and we're not going away" movement. Gay marriage. Legal. Not as vitally important if you're both from the same isle, but for us, it's make or break. Who doesn't love Canada - even prostitution is legal, and has been part of the Federal Criminal Code since at least the mid 1800s. That's live and let live. I doubt they'll ever have an ex beauty queen creationist who is anti-abortion, even when it is from rape or incest, as their potential VP.

Moving to Canada, specifically Montreal, doesn't seem too difficult. The biggest hurdle is finding a job that doesn't require bilingualism. High School French is a start, but it's not my biggest asset. We got married in Canada in September 2007, in a beautiful Japanese garden in Kelowna, BC. It was glorious. An institution, apparently. All I know is I got to be legally married to the man I love and adore. We have asked straight couples the question, "When the minister said I now declare you man and wife", and your legal status changed, how did you feel?" It turns out they take the change in legal status totally and utterly for granted. Almost all of them don't get the question from our standpoint, because they have never not been able to get married. It doesn't occur to them that we don't have that right. I have a line of girls wanting to marry me, but.....

"A LITTLE BIT OF HEALING" ALTERNATES MONTHLY WITH "SCOTTY IN THE CITY"

"Today, by repealing a nearly century old law, we affirm the right of same sex couples from out-of-state to marry in Massachusetts, to enjoy all the (Massachusetts State) protections of our good laws." MA Governor Deval L. Patrick

DIGNITY CHAPTER FOR GLBT CATHOLICS

Dignity of the Lehigh Valley gathers for worship and fellowship at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1900 E. Pennsylvania Avenue, Allentown, PA, the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 6:00 PM. GLBTA Catholics and friends are welcome. Those who desire to share in Eucharist are welcome to receive the Sacraments of the Church. Please contact dignitylehighvalley@yahoo.com or visit the blog at: www.DignityLHV.blogspot.com.

3

HOT NEWS

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS: every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQI youth ages 14 - 20. Adult facilitator volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening meetings. Contact Pete Pellegrino havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or visit Haven's Web page at www.uuclypa.org/haven.

GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level.

The early fall schedule is now in effect: **Tennis:** Every Sunday at 5:00pm at the Muhlenberg College courts, 22nd & Turner Streets, Allentown. **Volleyball:** Every Thursday at 7:00pm at Catasauqua Playground, 845 American Street, Catasauqua. **Bowling:** the 2nd Friday of the month, at 8:45pm at the Playdrome, 15th St. & Sumner Ave., Allentown. **Pinochle:** the 2nd Saturday of the month, at 7:00pm at the Moose Lounge, 28 North 10th Street, Allentown. **Racquetball:** every Thursday & Saturday, at 7:00pm at the 24/7 Fitness Club, Allentown. GLOSS's email newsletter will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website.

GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website. Email: Info@gloss.org. Website: www.gloss.org.

RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm 2nd flr, Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

WDIY EVENT

"Smart Growth, Sustainability and the Environment" will be discussed Oct. 7 during "Pints & Policy Night" at the Bethlehem Brewworks. Presented by WDIY 88.1 FM and the Bethlehem restaurant, the public forum will take place from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Steelgaarden Lounge. For more information about the events, visit www.wdiy.org, www.thebrewworks.com or call 610-694-8100.

FACT LV AIDS WALK

FACT Lehigh Valley AIDS Walk, will be on Sunday, October 5, 2008, in the Bethlehem Rose Garden at 8th Avenue Between West Broad and West Union Blvd. in Bethlehem. Registration will begin at 11:00 a.m. and the Walk will start at 1:00 p.m. The money raised in this event in addition to helping FACT, also helps the area HIV/AIDS services agencies in their work with the people they care for. For further information contact Dave Moyer at FACT 610-820-5519.



MUHLENBERG TO HOST BOOK READING TUESDAY OCT. 23

Reading and Booksigning of Angel Food and Devil Dogs - A Maggie Gale Mystery, by Liz Bradbury at Muhlenberg College's Trexler Library, 7pm, Free and Open to the Public, 10% of book profits from this reading benefit's Muhlenberg GSA. For more information or to read a book excerpt see: www.lizbradbury.boudicapublishing.com.

OKLAHOMA! ON THE EMPIE STAGE AT MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

As the Broadway musical that began the legendary partnership of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, Oklahoma! has been called the "Best Musical of the Century" by New York Drama League. The story of youthful romance turns on the emerging feud between the farmers and the cattlemen in the Oklahoma territory at the turn of the last century.

The Muhlenberg production of this landmark musical will be lavishly mounted with professional orchestra and the re-creation of the original choreography of Agnes DeMille. Performances are Wednesday, October 29 through Saturday, November 1 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, November 2 at 2 p.m. Tickets are available online at www.muhlenberg.edu/tickets or 484.664.3333. Adult tickets are \$20. Youth tickets are \$8. The Muhlenberg College theatre program is now ranked #6 in the nation by The Princeton Review.

LV BEARS

Lehigh Valley Bears social group meets at the Stonewall, 28 N 10th St. in Allentown, at 8 pm on the first Saturday of every month. Meet at the end of the bar under the moosehead. Bears and bear admirers, are welcome. Contact Ira Fine at: iramfine@aol.com or 610-767-7363 for information. Lehigh Valley Bears have a yahoo group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lvbears> See a Bears definition at PDN's website.

GLOSS BOWLING

GLOSS Bowling -- 2nd Fridays, around 8:45 pm. If you are interested, please contact Ira Fine, GLOSS Bowling coordinator, at: iramfine@aol.com, 610-767-7363, 610-462-4786. New people are welcome, no competition, you do not have to be a good bowler. GLOSS is there for fun and camaraderie with other GLBTA people.

TOUCHSTONE THEATRE EVENTS

Oct. 2nd - 12: Shipwrecked! The Amazing Adventures of Louis de Rougemont (As Told By Himself) Written by Donald Margulies; Performed by the Touchstone Ensemble. Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm \$15 / \$13 (Students and Seniors) Thursdays at 8pm - Pay What You Will (at the door). Tickets for Shipwrecked! are available by calling 610-867-1689 during normal business hours, online at www.touchstone.org or through www.lvartsboxoffice.org, or at the door.
Oct. 17-18: Tales from the Tub. Created by Rainbow Geffner and ensemble 8pm, \$15/\$10 (Students and Seniors).
Oct. 24: HipHop Collective: A Firehouse Friday event, 9pm. Ticket \$5.
Oct. 31: Writer's Soirée: A Firehouse Friday event. Local writers share and discuss their work, 8pm. Tickets: \$5.

GAYDAR BECOMES GAY MATTER

A note from Gay Matter editor/publisher Steve Libby:

Thank you for supporting our publication over these past three and a half years. Please note these changes for contacting us. Gaydar Magazine is now Gay Matter (the fun part of your brain!) Our new email is: gaymattermagazine@gmail.com. The mailing address remains: 1814 W. Congress St., 2nd Floor, Allentown, PA 18104 Please continue to send products for review to this address. My very best, Stephen T. Libby, Editor/Publisher, 484.951.9121

GOBAB: GENTLEMEN OF BERKS & BEYOND

Social activities, dinners, movies, hiking, biking, fun times and get together with friends who feel the same way that you do about sharing the brotherhood of life. www.GOBAB.org http://www.myspace.com/_gobab

HALLOWEEN PARTY SAT. OCT. 25
8:00 pm Rocky Horror Champaigne Toast
9:00 pm Horror Gag Gift Exchange
-- Bring a \$2.00 - \$3.00 Gag Gift
TIP THE MAID, AND HELP THE LOCAL SPCA.
10:00 pm **ROCKY HORROR MOVIE**

This is a private residence party with a 70s theme. **CLASSIC DISCO MUSIC.** Food, drinks, laughter, party games and a great time for all. Come in costume or come in black ... best costume gets a **PRIZE. \$ 10.00** Last reservation day: Oct. 15. Mail \$10.00 check in ASAP with your email address for the address. **MAIL TO : GOBAB C/O : J MESSNER, P.O. BOX 13592, READING PA 19612. DON'T DREAM IT ... BE IT**

LGBTQA TEEN GROUP SPECTRUM IN READING

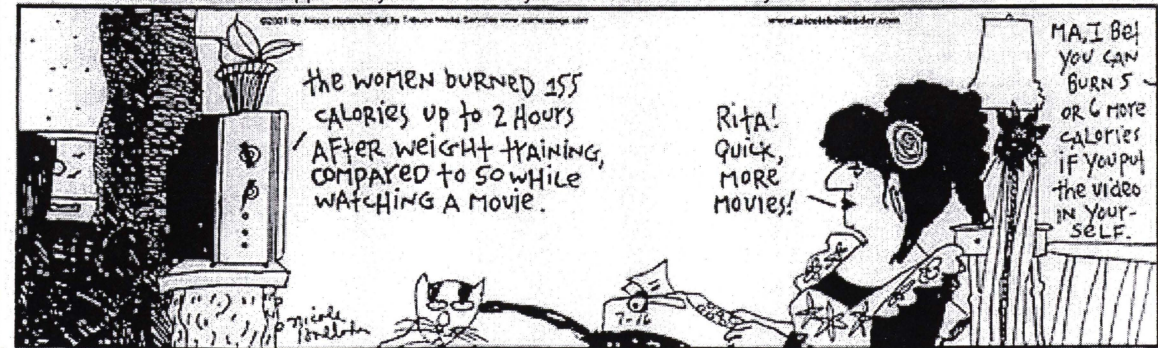
Spectrum is open to LGBTQ teens and their allies ages 14-18. Meetings are held every Wednesday evening from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on the second floor of Planned Parenthood Reading's media center. Spectrum seeks adult volunteers to assist with the program. Criminal background checks, training and references are required. If you'd like to volunteer, contact sexuality educator and manager of Spectrum, Amber Brown at 610-376-0137.

GAY & LESBIAN EPISCOPALIANS & FRIENDS

GLEF meets regularly at Christ Episcopal Church at 435 Court Street, Reading, PA. For info contact Dewayne Messenger through www.berksglef.org.

SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER

SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics. Grateful thanks to Nicole for this swell opportunity! To see more Sylvia cartoons check the Sylvia website: www.nicolehollander.com.



READING PFLAG

Meets at 6:30pm on the **THIRD TUESDAY** of each month, September through May at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading & Berks County, 416 Franklin St. Reading. For information or to confirm scheduled meetings call: 610.858.9278. PFLAG information: call Help Line: 610-967-5219, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org or e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org.

PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org. e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd. Wed., New Location see web site. 570-620-1234. Pottsville - 3rd Thursday at 6:30PM, Terrence Reiley Community Building, 216 N. 12th Street, Pottsville: 570-624-3151 or e-mail pflagpottsville@hotmail.com.

Meeting Dates: Allentown: Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2 Monroe: October 3, December 5 Reading: Oct. 21, Nov. 18

SUPPORT GROUP - BERKS

LGBTQ Support Group at Sanctuary Counseling in Douglassville. Join this group for an affirming, confidential experience of community and support! Meets the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30PM. Services are free for these groups. Nominal donations for materials/refreshments are appreciated. Sanctuary Counseling provides affirming counseling for the LGBTQ community, and is conveniently located for clients in northern Chester, southeastern Berks, and western Montgomery counties and the Route 422 corridor. Please pre-register. 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County. 610-385-3155 www.sanctuarycounseling.com VGP Drop-Off spot.

GLORA

GLORA - The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown - is a social GLBT group. For details about events, email GLORA@dejazzd.com or write GLORA, PO Box 414, Fredrick, PA 19435. GLORA is a non-profit, social group for men and women, singles or couples. Everyone welcome!

October 12- Philadelphia's National coming out festival- The largest out fest in the world, is Sunday afternoon in the gayborhood in Phila. Call Contact (610) 754-7144 as the date gets closer for more info and plans to meet.

Gay Bingo at the Gershman Y at Broad and Pine Streets. It's really fun. The two possible dates are October 19 in celebration of AIDS Walk in Philly and also November 15, the theme is "The Golden Girls." Tickets are \$20 in advance and the contact number is (215) 731-9255. Tickets sell out so make your reservations early and let GLORA know when you want to go (610) 754-7144.



THEATER AT PENN STATE BERKS PRESENTS

BUG A play by Tony Winner Tracy Letts. November 6-8, 13-15 at 8pm in the Perkins Auditorium. Call 610-396-6371 for more information. (for mature audiences only)

READING PRIDE CELEBRATION ANNOUNCES ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

Reading Pride Celebration recently held elections for its 2008-2009 pride season. Those elected include: Richard Spangler, President; Daniel Schlenker, Vice President; Brian Pinto, Treasurer; and Lori Good, Secretary.

Reading Pride Celebration plans a bigger, better 3rd year. To contribute your time in support of the Berks LGBTQ community visit www.readingpridecelebration.com. Next planning meeting: Monday, October 20, at Canal Street Pub, 535 Canal Street in Reading, at 7:00 p.m.

SOOZ VIEWS

SWING VOTE

By Sue Sneeringer

The premise of the recent Kevin Costner vehicle, *SWING VOTE*, is ludicrous, at best. With his one vote, Costner's "Bud Johnson" will determine the outcome of a presidential election. It is no more ludicrous, however, than the selection of Sarah Palin to the McCain ticket or a hundred other aspects of Election 2008. (A friend who is even more rabidly into politics than moi has promised a bumpersticker that reads "Sarah Palin IS the Bridge To Nowhere"...can't wait to see how long it takes for that to get ripped off my car.)

In *SWING VOTE*, Bud never voted nor gave a crap who was in the White House. He didn't think it mattered. Talk to a handful of regular citizens and you'll get an earful of much the same attitude. Bud's daughter, Molly (Madeline Carroll, in a breakout performance that is a total surprise and delight and, for certain, the best reason to see this film) has gotten used to him screwing up but she has also tired of Bud letting her down. All she wants is for him to vote because Molly believes it makes a difference. So do I.

Even in an election where personality is trumping the issues, AGAIN. Even in an election where campaign ads are libelous at best and manipulative of our collective and individual fears about the future of our families and the nation at the least. Even in an election where we're supposed to believe that the former mayor of a small town and governor of a state where the caribou outnumber the citizens can step into the presidency if necessary and run the country better than ANY of the other candidates who endured the primary process. ANY of them.

That *SWING VOTE* came and went quicker than Tina Fey got her Palin on, says as much about the film perhaps as it might about our lack of faith in this whole process. True, there are perhaps a record number of new voter registrations this election season. But voter fraud is a more sophisticated game than ever, too. I'm working on the "hope" thing. I promise I am but I also feel surrounded at times by many people who seem all too willing to vote against their own interests. And mine. Again. That a good portion of the rest of the free world is watching and praying that we go with Obama, falls on deaf ears. Like who, they challenge? The French??? We're supposed to care what they think?

SWING VOTE tries and fails to be a modern Capra film. Even if I wished for a better movie, I respect the effort. Because in the midst of its ludicrous plot *SWING VOTE* does remind us of our most basic right and responsibility as privileged citizens of a democracy and that's a public service, in this crazy, history-making election season or any other.

RAINBOW SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Now in its 4th year, The Rainbow Scholarship seeks to assist gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex (glbti), college-bound teens with school expenses while increasing the positive visibility of queer youth and promoting awareness and acceptance in the community at large.

In understanding that open and healthy communication is vital to the awareness and acceptance of diverse populations, schools in surrounding counties are requested to share the scholarship opportunities with their students.

Queer Student of the Year - Diandro Santiago -- \$500 awarded to a queer teen who is a positive force in the glbti community through their involvement and participation in community activities.

Rainbow Award - Sarah Roth -- \$500 awarded to a queer student based on academic excellence.

To learn how you can get involved or how you or someone you know could benefit from The Rainbow Scholarship email, rainbowscholarship@prideglv.org.

SOME OF THE WORLD CHANGING THINGS DONE BY DEL MARTIN

**Born in San Francisco on May 5, 1921, 1939 **High School Salutatorian. Begins to study journalism at UC Berkeley

1940 **Marries James Martin and two years later, gives birth to daughter Kendra. The marriage ends in divorce.

1950 ** Meets Phyllis Lyon in Seattle - (on Valentine's Day) Martin and Lyon move in together in San Francisco.

1955 ** Martin and Lyon and 6 other Lesbians co-found the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB) the first public and political lesbian rights organization in the United States.

1960 to 1962 ** Martin becomes the second editor (after Lyon) of DOB's groundbreaking monthly magazine, *The Ladder*.

1964 ** Became part of the group that founded the Council on Religion and the Homosexual to lobby lawmakers to reduce police harassment.

1972 ** Martin and Lyon co-author the groundbreaking book "Lesbian/Woman," co-found the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, the first US gay political club.

1975 ** Martin publishes "Battered Wives," Co-founds the Coalition for Justice for Battered Women

1976 ** Co-founds La Casa de las Madres (a shelter for battered women)

1987** Receives doctorate.

1995 ** U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein names Martin, and U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi named Lyon, as delegates to the White House Conference on Aging, where they use their moment at the podium to remind the 125,000 attendees that LGBT people grow old, too, and must be included explicitly in aging policies.

2004 ** Martin and Lyon are the first same-sex couple to be married in San Francisco, but have their marriage rights rescinded by California courts 6 months later

June 5, 2008 ** Martin and Lyon are the first same-sex couple to be legally wed in California after the CA supreme court decision granted marriage equality-

August 17, 2008 ** Martin dies at the age of 87, having been legally married for 2 months and 12 days.

Financial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made to -the California marriage ban through the National Center for Lesbian Rights' No On 8' PAC at www.nclrights.org/NoOn8.

BIOGRAPHIES OF RAINBOW SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

2008 Queer Student of the Year Recipient:

Diandra Santiago is a 2008 graduate of Freedom High School in Bethlehem, where she was the VP of Anime Club and one of the founding members of the Gay/Straight Alliance. Diandra won the Blue and White Award from Penn State for Latino Recognition and did over 200 hours of community service at the Country Meadows Retirement Home in Bethlehem. In her free time, Diandra likes to draw and play video games. At Northampton Community College, Diandra will major in the Veterinary Technician program and plans to join the GLBT club, Anime club and Vet Tech club. Her career goals are to become a marine biologist or a veterinary technician.

2008 Rainbow Award Recipient:

Sarah Roth graduated from William Allen High School in Allentown with high honors. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Gay/Straight Alliance, the Key Club, and Choir. She did volunteer work at Pride in the Park, Phoebe Home, Blood Drive, and Daffodil Days and worked at Ahart's Market in Allentown. Hobbies include crafts and reading. Sarah will attend Moravian College where she will study Graphic Design. She has not yet determined her career goals.

6 CALENDAR

Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, <http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa>, 610-435-3775

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDSWALK- see FACT

ASC- AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

BGMSG - Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events berksmsg@aol.com

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <civictheater.com>

CUUPS -- Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV, uucv_cuups@yahoo.com.

Dignity - "GLBT-friendly ministry for Catholics and their friends"- meets at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1900 E. Pennsylvania Avenue, Allentown 2nd and 4th Sundays at 6:00 pm. DignityLHV.blogspot.com Dignitylehighvalley@yahoo.com

Enigma Players -- qacres@prolog.net equal@agere - email: equal@agere.com

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

GaydarMagazine -- www.gaydarmagazine.com

GLEE at Air Products

GLEF - Gay and Lesbian Episcopalians in Berks County .Christ Episcopal Church, in Reading, 610-374-8269, email info@berksglef.org..

GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet,

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown www.glora.1colony.com, glora@dejazzed.com

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info@gloss.org

GLOW- at PPL

HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-2153, email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com

Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net

Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 info@padiversity.org

INTERWEAVE -- GLBTAI group at the UUCLV. 3rd Sundays.. Interweave-UUCLV@yahoo.com

LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: info@lvmgc.org, <www.lvmgc.org>

610-366-3320, rehearsals: Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem

Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com

MCC - Metropolitan Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcclhighvalley@yahoo.com, <http://www.mcciv.org> 610-709-8800

Muhlenberg GSA Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

NCC- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541(#1386) or 610-767-0296

19th St & Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943

Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College

PA-Diversity Network- 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

OCTOBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 HAVEN SPECTRUM	2 RAA GLOSS TOUCHSTONE	PHOTO PROJECT LANCASTER	4 MCC Banquet BEARS
5 MCC GLOSS TOUCHSTONE	6 RAA SC	7 LVGMC LV PFLAG WDIY Forum	8 SPECTRUM HAVEN	9 RAA Home Buying at MCC	10 GLOSS Nat. Bowling Coming Out Day	11 WDIY REN DIG
12 MATTHEW SHEPARD MEMORIAL GLORA	13 RAA	14 LVGMC ARRC Banquet	15 HAVEN SPECTRUM	16 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG Presetnation	17 PHOTO PROJECT LANCASTER	18 TOUCHSTONE Women's 5k Race
19 GLOSS MCC WDIY UUCLV	20 RAA SC READING Pride	21 LVGMC	22 HAVEN SPECTRUM	23 RAA GLOSS Muhlenberg BOOK READING	24 TOUCHSTONE	25 WDIY REN gobab GLOSS
26 WDIY UUCLV GLOSS MCC CUUPS	27 Muhlenberg Theatre RAA	28 LVGMC	29 HAVEN SPECTRUM	30 Muhlenberg Theatre	31 TOUCHSTONE	

NOVEMBER 2008 VOTE!!!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Muhlenberg Theatre	WDIY GLOSS
2 GLOSS UUCLV	3 RAA SC	4 LVGMC LV PFLAG	5 HAVEN SPECTRUM	6 GLOSS RAA PSU Berks Theatre	7 PSU Berks Theatre	8 GLOSS WDIY REN DIG MCC Brunch
9 WDIY GLOSS MCC UUCLV	10 RAA	11 LVGMC R PFLAG	12 HAVEN SPECTRUM	13 GLOSS RAA	14 GLOSS MCC Play	15 WDIY GLOSS MCC Play RACC Present
16	17 RAA SC	18 LVGMC	19 HAVEN SPECTRUM	20 RAA GLOSS P PFLAG	21	22 DIG WDIY GLOSS
23 GLOSS MCC	24 RAA	25 LVGMC	26 HAVEN SPECTRUM	27 RAA GLOSS	28	29 WDIY GLOSS
30						

DECEMBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 RAA SC	2 LV PFLAG LVGMC Yappy Hour	3 HAVEN SPECTRUM	4	5	6 BEARS WDIY GLOSS
7 GLOSS MCC UUCLV	8 RAA	9 LVGMC	10 HAVEN SPECTRUM	11 RAA GLOSS	12 GLOSS Bowling	13 WDIY REN GLOSS
14 LVGMC MCC Interweave	15 RAA SC	16 LVGMC	17 M PFLAG SPECTRUM HAVEN	18 RAA GLOSS	19 Y Touchstone	20 WDIY GLOSS
21 WDIY GLOSS MCC UUCLV	22 RAA	23 LVGMC	24 HAVEN SPECTRUM	25 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG	26	27 DIG GLOSS WDIY
28 GLOSS MCC UUCLV WDIY	29 RAA	30 LVGMC	31 SPECTRUM HAVEN			

PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pa-pflag.org

Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.prideglv.org>

Progressive Students Alliance - www.lehigh.edu/~inpstua/lvpsa/whatspsa.htm
Quakers-LV Friends Meeting-Rt 512 N of Rte 22 Bethlehem, Wshp 9:30am. 610-691-3411.

RAA - Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

Rainbow Families - donnearlucas@msn.com
Ren - Renaissance Transgender Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org

Reading PFLAG - 610-967-5219

Reading Pride - Festival in Reading www.readingpridecelebrating.org

SC Sanctuary Counseling G:BT Support Group 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County 610-385-3155 www.sanctuarycounseling.com
Safe Space - At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973

Spectrum -- LGBTQA Teen Group, Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street, Reading PA 610-376-0137

UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.

VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, VGP@padiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiversity.org

Wachovia-GALEA - Gay and Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS
SANCTUARY COUNSELING - 1ST & 3RD MONS

LVGMC REHEARSALS - TUES
LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAY

READING PFLAG 3RD TUES

ALLENTOWN PFLAG - 1ST TUES

MCCLV TEJAS WOMANS GRP - WEDS

LV HAVEN - WEDS

READING SPECTRUM - WEDS

MONROE PFLAG - 3RD WEDS

JAN, MARIJUN, SEPT, DEC ONLY

GLOSS VOLLEYBALL - THURS

POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURS

GLOSS RAC-BALL-THURS & SAT

GLOSS BOWLING - 2ND FRI

MCCLV POTLUCK - LAST SUN

MCCLV WEIGHT LOSS - SUNS

LV BEARS - 1ST SAT

GLOSS PINOCCHLE - 2ND SAT

RENAISSANCE - 2ND SAT

GLOSS TENNIS - SUNS

INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAY

DIGNITY - 2ND & 4TH SUN

OCT 2-DEC 8 - TOUCHSTONE

OCT 3 - PHOTO PROJECT - LANCASTER

OCT 4 - MCCLV BANQUET

OCT 5 - MCCLV PASTOR DAY

OCT 5 - LV AIDS WALK

OCT 7 - WDIY FORUM

OCT 9 - HOME BUYING

OCT 10 - NCO DAY

OCT 12 - SHEPARD MEMORIAL

OCT 12 - GLORA

OCT 12 - READING IN PTOWN

OCT 14 - AHRG AWARDS

OCT 16 - POTTSVILLE PFLAG

OCT 17 - BOOK READING & PHOTO PROJECT LANCASTER

OCT 17-18 - TOUCHSTONE

OCT 18 - WOMENS 5K CLASSIC

OCT 20 - READING PRIDE MTG

OCT 23 - READING @ MUHLENBERG

OCT 24 - TOUCHSTONE

OCT 25 - COBB

OCT 29-NOV 1 - MUHLENBERG THEATRE

OCT 31 - TOUCHSTONE

NOV 6-8 - PENN STATE BERKS

NOV 8 - MCCLV BRUNCH

NOV 14-15 - FACT BENEFIT@ MCCLV

PDN LIST OF 2008 EVENTS:

October 3 -- Photo Project in Lancaster
October 12 -- Matthew Shepard Memorial at Muhlenberg

October 12 -- Book Reading in PTown

October 16 -- PDN's Liz Bradbury presents Gay History @ Pottsville PFLAG and reads/signs her novel Angel Food and Devil Dogs

October 17 -- Photo Project inclusion of the new photos of Lancaster couples in the exhibit and book reading at the Art in the Alley Gallery Lancaster

October 18 -- Women's 5K Breast Cancer Classic and brunch

October 23 -- Book reading @ Muhlenberg by Liz Bradbury to benefit PDN and the Muhlenberg GSA

November 15 -- RACC Presentation on GLBT civil rights and advocacy

November, 2008 -- PDN Bingo

December 2008 -- Rainbow Families Christmas Party with MCCLV

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH LV

Last Sunday of the Month Potluck @ MCCLV follows the morning worship service! Bring a dish to share. For more info contact Fellowship Ministry Leader Joleane Ferris at fellowship.ministry@mcclv.org

MCCLV Weight Loss Support Group-meets on Sundays following the 10:30 AM morning worship. Information: Stephanie Heller: wishwasatadeadshow@yahoo.com

MCCLV Sunday Morning Bible Study - every Sunday at 8:30 AM. Information, christian.education@mcclv.org.

Annual Banquet 2008 Oct. 4th @ 6pm Saturday, Lee Gribbens on Main, Emmaus.

Pastor Appreciation Surprise - Host: MCCLV Congregant Oct. 5 @ 11am Sunday

All U Can Eat Brunch Fundraiser November 8 @ 10am (setup) 11am (mealtime)

JOIN PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S FACEBOOK GROUP

ALLENTOWN HUMAN RELATIONS AWARDS

The Allentown Human Relations Commission is pleased to announce the winners of the 2008 Human Relations Awards. The recipients will be honored at the 31st annual Allentown Human Relations Awards Dinner on Tuesday, October 14, 2008, 5:30 p.m. at the Palace Center, 623 Hanover Av, Allentown. Tickets are \$40 per person contact 610-437-7616 for ticket information.

The Award Recipients are: Individuals - Adrian Shanker, Katie Loeb-Schwab, Isa Pereyra, and Linda Anthony -- Recipient of the Lauren Giguere Award of Distinction. Community Organizations: Community Exchange of Lehigh Valley Hospital, The Caring Place, and Lehigh Valley Black/African Heritage Project

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

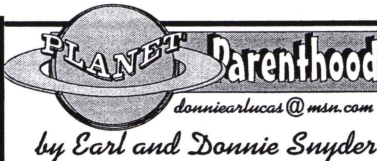
I am not a stars & stripes waving citizen. In many ways I do feel fortunate to have been born in these United States, but I am pissed to no end that gay marriage is still not recognized and not protected on a federal level.

The latest example of this discrimination and how we DO NOT have the same rights as the straights, has been playing out with some dear friends over the past months. Maybe you read about it in this issue of VGP. Kindall & Phil (you know you've reached rock star status when most people recognize you by your first names only. Dolly & Cher are another example, but I don't think they've gone public with their love yet so let's continue with K&P). Phil is an audiophile of astronomical proportions and Kindall is a compulsive coffee pot collector.

They are both seeking treatment north of the border for their respective conditions. This is not exactly true and I do not want anyone to think I am making light of the reason they HAVE to leave which is simply that Uncle Sam and Mother Freedom have decided its okay for teen starlets to have ten minute marriages, but two gay men, whose marriage, by the way, is recognized by other countries, are not! I just wanted to say that they will be leaving a very large void in this community. One that will be impossible to fill. I remember hearing Kindall's heartiest of laughs for the first time at the old Theatre Outlet, which he went on to manage. I consider myself fortunate to be on the guest list for their annual Holiday parties. It was at one of these parties when I realized Phil and I had a bond in the love of music. I would normally say beg, borrow or steal your way into their next shin-dig, but oh, yeah, our f'ing government won't allow them to stay in this country so there will not be any more Kindall & Phil parties on the corner of 15th & Hamilton.

To put it simply, these two people are the cream of the crop. You feel better just being around them. They make you feel special. They can talk at length on a variety of subjects and they really listen and are invested. Not only can they light up and energize a room, they donate of their time, home, energy and talent to make this community a better place for us all. And they've been doing it for years.

In no way would I normally consider myself a spokesperson for our GLBT community. But, I'm going to go out on a limb here, and extend our most heartfelt best wishes to our friends, Kindall & Phil, for a long and happy life together in a country that appreciates the diversity of its people. Oh, Canada! By the way, K&P, what's your new address? We're planning a road trip, Gary & I...and just a few hundred of your closest friends. We love you and we will miss you!!!! XO, Steve



by Earl and Donnie Snyder

SEASONS OF CHANGE

Well, as summer comes to an end, we reflect on the various changes Lucas has gone through, both in his activities and also in how he acts. We wonder if a child can ever stop changing, and surely the answer would be no! Then comparing him to younger children can really be a reality check. Our son is getting older. He is no longer a baby, nor even a toddler, but a preschooler now! Lucas is growing, and we are growing older; thus, more of our disposable income is spent on anti-aging products. But it is quite entertaining to observe the changes the passage of time brings upon our child.

Physically he is changing. He is getting taller. He is now able to go on the big rides at the amusement park-with a parent. Translated, that means he still isn't big enough to get on the big rides. He also eats more. More candy, more popsicles, and more cheese puffs, but still hasn't tasted a tomato or a cucumber. He is learning to swim, he likes to dance, and he can run fast. Especially when he is in trouble.

His communication skills have improved. He has developed some telephone etiquette. He answers the house phone, says hello, asks for a name, proceeds to talk about the cartoon he is watching, about what his uncle stepped in out in the back yard, and then hangs up. If it was important, our cell phone will ring seconds later.

His imagination is developing rapidly. When staying at his grandparents, he told them that Daddy no longer requires him to wear a diaper. They aren't fooled easily. When asked who had strewn his books all about his bedroom floor, he said that Dad did it. We here all know that Dad has OCD and couldn't possibly be responsible for that type of disarray, so no one fell for that hoax.

Sometimes he can be naughtier than he used to be, and other times he can be so much more helpful than ever before. As time passes we see him change more and more, almost with the seasons. What hasn't changed is that he still loves to hug his daddies, he loves his daddies to hug him, and loves his daddies to hug each other.

**READ MORE IN THE
RAINBOW FAMILIES
SECTION OF
PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S
WEB SITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG.**



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH BANQUET - OCT 4

MCCCLV's Annual Banquet will be Saturday, October 4, from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM at Lee Gribben's On Main in Emmaus. There will be live music by DJ Primo, a 50/50 raffle, and a cash bar.

Tickets are \$30 per person and can be purchased following service each Sunday, or by contacting fellowship.ministry@mccclv.org. The price of the ticket includes dinner, non-alcoholic beverages, and 2 raffle tickets. This is a semi-formal event.

This promises to be a night of fun and fellowship, so get your banquet tickets today!

"Our country's journey toward equality is not finished," Michelle Obama writes. "It's been five years since Lawrence v. Texas. It's been 39 years since Stonewall. And we still have more work to do before we achieve equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Americans."



Ask a "Family" Lawyer By Attorney Kate Lynn

JOIN US AT THE STEP OUT WALK TO FIGHT DIABETES ON OCTOBER 11, 2008!

On October 11, 2008, Team Law Offices of Kate Lynn will be walking in Bethlehem to fight diabetes. Team t-shirts will be available to all who register on the team prior to October 4, 2008. You are invited to join us! To sign up, go to www.stepout.diabetes.org, and join our team!

There are over 16 million diabetics in our country, and the incidence of this medical condition continues to grow at an alarming rate. This disease affects members of our gay and lesbian community. Anti-homosexual bias, healthcare provider prejudice and lack of familiarity with our community's health issues often creates a negative experience for us, and affects our ability or willingness to seek health services and access treatment. This common discrimination experience may lead to poorer general health status, late presentation for care, diminished utilization of health care facilities and a decreased quality of health services.

Being obese or overweight may lead to health problems such as diabetes or heart disease. There are two basic types of diabetes mellitus: Type 1 (which was previously referred to as juvenile diabetes) and Type 2 (previously referred to as adult onset diabetes). Death rates, debilitating complications and hospitalization costs associated with diabetes continue to rise. Other complications due to diabetes include heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, blindness, kidney disease, nervous system diseases, amputations, and dental disease.

According to a new study by Sarah Fogel, Ph.D., R.N., an associate professor of Nursing at the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, lesbians are nearly twice as likely to be diabetic than heterosexual women. For her study, Ms. Fogel is using a successful and predominantly lesbian Atlanta, Georgia weight loss group as a model system for discovering how to target obesity in a lesbian population. How to understand obesity in different social contexts is the question that Ms. Fogel is attempting to answer in her study.

I was diagnosed as a diabetic several years ago and was prescribed Metformin, a common oral medication for diabetics; in fact, Metformin is one of the most prescribed drugs in our country. After jumping through the hoops for six months to obtain insurance approval I finally underwent bariatric surgery March 11, 2008. Now over 100 pounds lighter, I do not take 75% of the medications I was previously prescribed. If you are exploring bariatric surgery, please call me if you would like to hear my experiences.

Team Law Offices of Kate Lynn joins with the American Diabetes Association as it continues the fight against diabetes. You are invited to join our team!

Kate Lynn is a solo practitioner whose primary office is located in Allentown. Kate can be reached at (610) 435-7770 or on her website at www.katelynnlaw.com. The law firm includes Kate's partner Lori and two unpaid but hard working office dogs, Crockett and Diego.

HOME BUYING 101 - AT MCCCLV October 9th, Thursday 7pm-8:30pm MCC of the Lehigh Valley, 930 N. 4th St., Allentown

Love to move but don't know if there is a mortgage out there for you? Love to move and have no idea how much you can afford? Love to move and don't have the first clue how to get answers? This presentation has the answers! Gail Hoover, Realtor, RE/MAX Marketplace and Sam Royer, Homesource Mortgage will be answering all of your questions and will show you the home buying process, step by step, so you can enjoy your new home by the holidays if you choose. Please RSVP to Gail@GailHoover.com

FAITH PAGES by Adrian Shanker

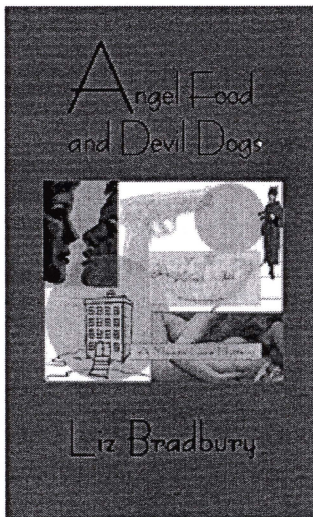
Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz, seen here with Faith Pages Columnist Adrian Shanker, presented a fascinating lecture at Muhlenberg College in September on "Jewish/Queer/Bodies/Borders -- Where have all the butches gone? Can I ever go home? And other transgressions..." The event was sponsored by Muhlenberg College's Gay/Straight Alliance.

SOBEL LEAVES EQUALITY ADVOCATES

"I want to thank all of you for your advice, support and collaboration over the last seven years." -- Stacey Sobel, announcing her departure from the directorship of Equality Advocates.

**OCTOBER 16
POTTSVILLE
PFLAG
PRESENTS:**

A reading and book signing of *Angel Food and Devil Dogs* - A Maggie Gale Mystery by PDN Dir. Liz Bradbury, from 5-6:30 at Many Worlds Gallery, 205 West Market St., Pottsville. Part of the book sales proceeds benefit PFLAG. Then at 6:30, an LGBT history presentation by Liz Bradbury, next door at the Terry Reiley Community Building, 216 N 12th St.

**VALLEY GAY PRESS**⁹

web site: www.padiversity.org

Publisher, Managing Editor -- Liz Bradbury

Publisher, Editor -- Patricia Sullivan

Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Donnie Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner, Sue Sneideringer, Adrian Shanker, Kate Lynn, Phil Healing, AJA Lyons and others

Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP) operates as part of **Pennsylvania Diversity Network**. VGP owns the copyright to its articles and columns. No part may be reproduced without written permission of the Publisher. VGP offers free copies for direct mail and hand-out distribution to Lehigh Valley area not-for-profit organizations and businesses. The editorial columns and political cartoons that appear in the Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation or gender identity of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley

1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800

PFLAG Allentown, Reading and Pottsville -- see meeting schedule

Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown

19th Street Theater -- 527 N 19th St. Allentown

Lehigh Valley Unitarian Universalist Church

(UUCLV) -- 424 Center St., Bethlehem

Haven GLBTA Youth Group at UUCLV

10 Libraries in Berks County, Allentown Library

Planned Parenthood NEPA 48 S. 4th St. Reading

Easy Does It Clubhouse (Berks County),

Reading Community Theatre -

11th & Buttonwood Sts Reading

Allen HS GSA, Reading HS GSA, Gov Mifflin HS GSA

Wilson High School GSA, Berks AIDS Network

Berks Mens Social Group, Kutztown Univ GLBT Center

Reading Area Community College Library

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Diamondz Nightclub -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

Stonewall Bar -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown

Candida's -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown

Hava Java Coffee Shop -- N. 19th St. Allentown

Dreamscape Comics -- 302 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

The Woods Campground

Red Star Saloon -- 11 S. 10th St, Reading

Sanctuary Counseling -- 515 Old Swede Road, Douglasville

Valley Gay Press is published 10 times a year monthly, excepting February and September. Deadlines are the 18th of the previous month.

PDN's membership cycle begins in January.

Circulation: 1000-2000 papers per issue.

Readership: 3500, monthly, 35k readers a year.

To Contact Valley Gay Press:

Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
Phone: 610-432-5449 Email: info@padiversity.org

To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP. Some restrictions apply.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

10

Name/s _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

State _____ zip _____

E-mail _____

☐ Senior dues (over 65) \$5

☐ Individual dues \$15

☐ Family dues \$20

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to PDN. Additional contribution
Make checks payable to PDN. ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ other

LEHIGH VALLEY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

**PDN
PO BOX 22902
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002**

BERKS COUNTY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

**PDN
PO BOX 242
MERTZTOWN, PA 19539**

**BECOME A MEMBER OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK
TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS**

**LAST CHANCE TO PAY
PA DIVERSITY NETWORK
2009 MEMBERSHIP DUES
AT THE CURRENT RATE
OF JUST \$15 / \$20**

**IN NOVEMBER
PA DIVERSITY'S DUES
WILL INCREASE TO \$20
FOR AN INDIVIDUAL AND
\$25 FOR A FAMILY
MEMBERSHIP**

**PLEASE SUPPORT PDN BY
PAYING YOUR DUES NOW**

Currently membership to PA Diversity Network, which brings you a subscription to the Valley Gay Press, is just \$15 for an individual membership and \$20 for a family membership.

PA Diversity Network is a not-for-profit volunteer driven organization which supports the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community of the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. PDN's projects include: The Valley Gay Press, The GLBT Infoline, the PDN Resource Web Site, the PDN Photo Project -- 300 Same-sex Couples and Rainbow Families. PDN also fights individual instances of discrimination on a case by case basis, does presentations to organizations, educational institutions and businesses on GLBT issues, and brings the community entertaining and fun activities like special concert events, art shows, community action opportunities, Bingo, and participation with other organizations.

PDN exists and functions financially in great part on contributions and memberships from people like you. Please become a 2009 member of PDN and further support PDN with a contribution. PDN is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization.

**TO PAY YOUR PDN
DUES ON LINE!
JUST GO TO "MEMBERSHIP" AT
WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG
IT'S EASY, IT'S SECURE.**

CIRCULATE YOUR GROUP'S INFO

VGP is a free way for GLBTA friendly groups and organizations to get their information to hundreds of people in the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. If you represent a pro-GLBT group or organization, or if you would like to start one, email PA Diversity Network (info@padiversity.org) or call the PDN offices at 610-432-5449 to find out how to list and circulate information about your group.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG



LIZ OUT LOUD © 11

By Liz Bradbury

HOW WE FOILED REPENT AMERICA FOR FUN AND PROFIT AND HOW YOU CANTOO!

At the Reading Pride Festival, the annoying and insulting anti-gay Repent America protesters were set up right near the PA Diversity Network booth.

They shouted insults and spouted convoluted logic about our community based in the strangest interpretations of the Bible I've ever heard -- and I've heard a lot. When one guy, who seemed to lack the facility to yell actual words took over, he loudly grunted (yes, grunted) nonstop for 20 minutes.

Silent Witness, the wonderful group with the giant rainbow umbrellas that stands between us and the icky protesters, was there in Reading doing their job. One of the most important things Silent Witness does, is block our own people from physically acting against the protesters. This is very important, because what these hateful (and kind of sad) protesters really want is for some GLBT person to throw a punch, so they can sue us.

Unfortunately, the beautiful umbrellas don't stop the protesters from showing up or shouting unpleasant things. So I began to think up a plan to foil the protesters with their own words. I came up with the "PA Diversity Network Magic Words Pledge Drive."

We started the pledge drive when Repent America announced they were going to be at the Greater Lehigh Valley Pride in the Park festival in Allentown in a letter to the editor in the Morning Call newspaper. They also insisted it was unconstitutional to block them with umbrellas since all they were doing was praying. (That's praying?)

Here's how the Magic Words Pledge Drive worked: We selected 10 magic words that the protesters love to say and 3 secret words that we wouldn't let the protesters know about. Then we challenged the GLBTA community to pledge ten cents a word for every time the protesters said one of the words. People could cap their amounts at anything they wanted.

Our volunteers - two per two hour shift - would count the words and ring a bell each time a word was said. GLV Pride asked that the bell be on the small side so it wouldn't irritate people in booths or conflict with the entertainment. We ended up using one of those hotel counter bells that had a delightful ding, but that wasn't too loud. I also came up with the slogan: Every time you hear a bell ring, our angels get more wings!

Emails circulated around the community. By the day before the festival pledges reached \$4.30 per word, up to a capped total of \$1615...at that point I began to worry that the protesters WOULDN'T show up! People capped at every amount from \$5 to \$250 and one very brave person pledged ten cents a word with no cap! By the end of the festival, the total amount was over \$2000!!!

We decided to equally share the money with groups that gave us volunteers for the counting and bell ringing. We also agreed that Silent Witness should get a share, but Silent Witness graciously turned down the money and asked us to donate it to a GLBT youth program. The two other groups that volunteered for the effort were Muhlenberg College's Gay/Straight Student Alliance, and Pottsville PFLAG.

PA Diversity Network decided to designate our share for the PDN Youth Initiative program. And the share that Silent Witness would have gotten will go to that program, too.

The PDN Youth Initiative program will offer small financial grants of up to \$200 to Eastern PA High School, College and Community Gay/Straight Alliances for supplies or funding for projects to further diversity and tolerance in their communities. This is not money for something like a dance or a party, but rather for activist efforts toward equal rights, advocacy or education. A great example would be the \$50 needed by Parkland High School's GSA for the supplies they needed for their Decorate Your Own Gingerbread Person project. The students sold the cookies to other students at school during lunchtime and they encouraged

TRISH'S COLUMN ©

By Patricia Sullivan



the other students to decorate the cookies with any gender expression they wanted. This project addressed gender identity in a positive and fun way. The GSA in turn, donated the money they made from the cookie sales to the Ali Forney Center in NYC, that provides safe housing for runaway GLBT youth.

It was great that all the money collected from the Magic Words Pledge Drive went to GLBT youth and family programs. The PDN Youth Initiative will be put into motion as soon as all the pledges are collected. We'll have more on the Youth Initiative, explaining how GSAs can apply, in a later VGP issue and at the PDN web site at: www.padiversity.org.

The pledge drive volunteers counting the words and ringing the bell had to endure a lot of unpleasantness from the protesters. Believe me, I was there part of the time, it wasn't praying. The protesters personally insulted me and some of the volunteers - they knew my name and harassed me by making personal remarks aimed only to hurt and annoy, but I kept hearing that bell ring and all their words did was make me smile.

Picture this --A beautiful day, a protester shouting, a bell ringing: "Repent (ding) your lifestyle (ding) that the Devil (ding) and Satan (ding) made you homosexuals (ding) sin (ding) against God (ding) and Jesus (ding)." And me walking away waving and saying, "Thanks for the money, folks!"

It would be great if they just left us alone, but if not, let's be sure that the protesters never show up again in our community without their words funding our efforts. If the protesters are coming to your town - run the pledge drive. It's easy. Contact me if you need some pointers. Above all, be sure that you share the money with other groups in a way that will strongly further the equal rights of the GLBT community.

By the end of Pride in the Park the protesters had said the Magic Words 2632 times, which covered all the pledges. Here's a breakdown:

Abomination: 79 times; Bible: 122; Devil: 14; Ex-Gay: 11; God: 772; Grunting (secret sound): 13; Homosexual: 200; Jesus: 743; Lifestyle: 35; Repent: 193; Satan: 29; Sin: 389; Sodom: 32

By the way, several of these protesters were fixated on the Woods Campground, they just couldn't stop asking me what it was like. Go figure. And here are some of the other bizarre things they said:

****"You can't put God on a chain like you do that dog!"

****"It's not a lifestyle, it's a truthstyle!"

****"There is no ice cream in Hell!"

****"God's way or the highway!"

****"You can go muffin diving all you want, all you're going to get is throat cancer!"

****"You're not gay, you're sad!"

****"Praise God I'm straight...WHEW! -- Do I get another WHEW on that?"

****"Jesus hung on the cross and gave you a free gift!"

Almost all the pledges have been collected - two people pledged 10 cents a word without a cap, several people increased their donations over the amount they pledged. The total pledges came to over \$2000.

BY THE WAY, YOU CAN CHECK OUT 100S OF PHOTOS FROM BOTH THE READING AND LEHIGH VALLEY PRIDE FESTIVALS AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG.

POP QUIZ 12

1. The two states in the US that allow same-gender marriage are: ____.
2. Which of the above two states are facing a Constitutional marriage amendment that would overturn these civil rights?
3. True or False: An immigrant can marry their same-gender partner in those two states and will receive legal immigration rights.
4. T or F: Opposite-sex couples receive over 1400 federal rights from legal marriage.
5. T or F: Because same-gender marriage is not federally recognized in the US, same-gender couples receive no federal rights from marrying in CA & MA.
6. T or F: Same-gender couples who marry in CA & MA will receive hundreds of state rights from those states, but only if they live in those states.
7. T or F: The major reason for the stock market crash in 1929 was unregulated stock sales to people who borrowed 90% of the money to buy the stocks without collateral, a policy that had been supported by prior Republican presidential administrations.
8. T or F: Democratic President Franklin Roosevelt appointed Joe Kennedy (father of John, Booby and Teddy) to rewrite policies that strongly regulated stock purchases to be backed by significant collateral which avoided future financially unsupported market crashes.
9. T or F: Most observers believe that the major reason for the current financial, banking, and mortgage crisis is unregulated housing sales to people and businesses who had little or no collateral for loans to purchase real estate.
10. T or F: Until this month, John McCain and the Republican party strongly supported legislation that deregulated the banking and loan industry, and other corporate industries.

VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW VGP WELCOMES NEW REVIEWER A'JA LYONS

Am I Blue?: Coming Out from the Silence by Marion Dane Bauer, A Young Adult Book published by Harper Trophy

Am I Blue?: Coming Out from the Silence by Marion Dane Bauer is an assemblage of eight distinct tales about young adults experiencing firsthand the perils of what comes with being gay or lesbian or being close to someone who is. Though this book was published 14 years ago, most of the stories still apply today, especially in areas of the Country that are less progressive.

In the story 'Am I Blue' by Bruce Coville, a young man gets heavenly help after being assaulted by a fellow classmate. 'Winnie and Tommy' by Francesca Lia Block details a situation where a young couple's love is questioned when one of them questions their sexuality. In 'Parents Night' by Nancy Garden, a GSA booth on Parents' Night gives a teenage girl the courage to come out to her seemingly liberal parents.

Some of the stories are relatively lighthearted and others show the melancholy side of being a sexual minority. Each author manages to tell a creative tale about finding and knowing oneself without ending up with a stereotypical "sad homosexual story."

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley & Berks County if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network
GLBT Infoline
PA-GALA
Rainbow Families
Valley Gay Press
Allentown Human Relations Commission
Safe Space of Lehigh University
PFLAG Lehigh Valley
ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women
GLORA
Pride of the GLV
LV Gay Men's Chorus
NCC GLBT Student Union
The Lehigh Valley Labor Party
EQUAL! at Agere
Metropolitan Community Church LV
OutThere - Cedar Crest
9th Street Shelter
Allentown
LV Community Action Committee
GLEE at Air Products
FACT
AIDS Outreach
The Unitarian Universalist Church LV
GLOSS
LEPOCO
GLSN of Dun & Bradstreet
AIDS Services Center
Theatre Outlet
Integrity - Bethlehem
The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Civic Theater
19th Street Theatre
The Latin Alliance
The Enigma Players
New Covenant Family Ministries
Properties of Merit
Allentown City Democratic Committee
Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem
Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance
LV Turning Point
Muhlenberg Theater Association
LV Crime Victims Council
Touchstone Theater
Congregation Am Haskalah
LV Progressive Student Alliance
The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown
United Friends School Quakertown
LV Transsexual Coalition
Lehigh Valley Transmen
GLEEF (Gay & Lesbian Episcopalians Affiliates)
Old Allentown Preservation Association
The Center for Animal Health and Welfare

WDY

MUHLENBERG TO HOST MATTHEW SHEPARD MEMORIAL

Sunday, October 12, 2008 -- Community-wide Matthew Shepard 10th year anniversary memorial service. 7pm in Egner Memorial Chapel at Muhlenberg College. Sunday, October 12, 2008. See page 1 for info.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH ANNUAL BANQUET OCT 4 SEE PAGE _

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY OCTOBER 10 - COME OUT TO SOMEONE NEW

QUOTE #1

"I celebrate and give thanks for this decision of the court and look forward with joy and excitement to a future of justice and mercy for all people in the State of California and the Episcopal Church. To paraphrase St. Paul, there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, gay nor straight in Jesus Christ our Lord. — J. Jon Bruno, Bishop of Los Angeles"

QUOTE #2

"It is an honor to be recognized by my Brothers and Sisters in the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual and Transgender community. The work we do is vital to who we are and to let people know we are just like everyone else and want to be treated fairly like everyone else. I for one will never give up the fight." - Dave Moyer upon receiving his award for his work on the health of our community, from PDN

QUOTE #3

"When just coming out was the bravest thing a person could do, [Ellen] DeGeneres became the face of gay people's struggle to be open. Now she's become the face of the struggle for equality, and her marriage represents just how far we've come." —Michele Kort, writing in The Advocatefight."

PA DIVERSITY'S YARD SALE AT DIAMONZ HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL SPRING - PLEASE SAVE UP YOUR STUFF

Distelfink 10/08 by Ruby Zebu "Cutting Edge?"

John McCain's recent and very first Internet log-on nets an email that becomes the basis for his economic recovery plan...

Dear Beloved Christian Friend,
I have a bank account to get out of Foreign Country.

